



**USAID | MACEDONIA**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Tose Proeski's last concert, organized together with USAID, raised over 100,000 US dollars for Macedonian schools**

On October 5, 2007, over 22,000 fans of all ages gathered at the Skopje City Stadium to listen to their biggest star and national hero, Tose Proeski, as he gave a humanitarian concert to benefit Macedonian schools. Millions more watched on television and over the internet. Macedonia's Minister for Education and Science Sulejman Rushiti and U.S. Ambassador Gillian Milovanovic were among the dignitaries who joined Tose in promoting better education. Tragically, this unprecedented humanitarian action was also the last of its kind for Tose, who died in a car crash less than two weeks later.

Macedonia was shocked by his death, but grateful for the legacy he left behind. "To my knowledge, this was the biggest humanitarian concert in Macedonian history, and the largest amount raised by the public for its schools," said Keith Prenton, Director of the USAID Primary Education Project (PEP). "We will ensure that the funds directly benefit schools and their students, just like Tose had intended."

The concert raised a total of 4,561,522 MKD – or approximately 106,000 USD – that will be used to buy educational equipment for primary schools across Macedonia. In preparation for this concert, Tose worked closely with the organizers to establish a Tose Fund where concert proceeds would be deposited. A spending committee, comprised of USAID PEP staff and respected public figures, will work in close collaboration with the National Coordinating Committee in Honor of Tose to ensure that the money is allocated fairly and transparently.

In addition to providing educational equipment, USAID PEP will renovate up to 100 primary schools during its four years of implementation. The project is also working with Macedonia's Ministry of Education and Science to improve the use of information and communication technology, the quality of mathematics and science instruction, as well as school-based assessment.

#### NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.